
ST. MARK'S MESSENGER

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 7 • JULY 2018

Pastor Dan's Article

I have a little brother, Brent. I call him "little", but he's 34 and a college basketball coach. We're 14 months apart and while growing up pretty much did everything together: when I got a BB gun, he got one a year early; when we would play video games as kids, he'd usually beat me; when we'd play basketball, he was the point guard, I was the power forward. One of our understandings is that on my birthday, he doesn't call or text until after 11pm, lest I know he remembered before nearly the end of the day, such a little brother thing to do. I roll my eyes every year. I'm such an older brother.

One of the more well known stories is the story often called the Prodigal Son, found in Luke 15. It's a story of a man who has two sons. The younger decides he's done being a part of the family and asks for his inheritance so he can leave. When the father grants him this ridiculous request, he proceeds to go to a far away land, and squander it on partying and prostitutes. When his money runs out, he finds himself feeding pigs, hungry enough to find their slop appetizing. He goes home and is immediately, to the consternation of his older brother, welcomed back into the family, re-instated to his role as son, and has a party thrown in his honor. The standard reading and interpretation for this story is to focus on the son who ran away...who squandered his father's wealth on party's and prostitutes... who hit rock bottom... who came home to beg and plead for forgiveness. We normally use this story to talk about how God is gracious and loving towards those who are far away from God. We talk about how God will accept the prodigal with open arms if only they would, like the older brother, come back home.

Sounds like the way an older brother would read this story, doesn't it?

Looking at Luke 15, we'll see that this story is the final of three stories Jesus tells in response to the Pharisees and teachers of the law complaining that Jesus spends so much with sinners. He tells the story of a shepherd who leaves 99 of his sheep to find one that is missing. He then tells the story of a woman who loses one of her ten coins, and will not rest until she can find the one missing. Then he gets to our story. The story about a father who restlessly waits for his missing son, upsetting the elder son who is faithful to his father.

Jesus is telling the story to point out the cold heartedness of the older brother.

The older brother has been loyal and faithful to his father, and feels like his father owes him something for that. He's jealous of the attention that his father is lavishing on his younger brother. The over the top response to the homecoming offends the older brother, because he feels he deserves the attention. His little brother has squandered his father's blessings on wild living, yet he's never gone anywhere. He should be the one getting the attention, not his worthless little brother.

Jesus' story is an admonishment for the older brother; look at the father and how he cares for his lost son; look at the woman and her lost coin; look at the shepherd how he leaves everything behind to find one lost sheep. The father tells his son, *"You are always with me, and everything I have is yours. but we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."*

And there it is, Jesus finishes the story by comparing the heart of the father to the older brother's. The question this story is wanting us to ask is, who are you? Are you like the father: gracious and loving, excited for his lost son to come home? Are you like the older brother: jealous of the attention his father gives to his lost son? I think it's safe to say, Jesus wants us be like the father. So who are you? Are you like the father or are you like the older brother?

Our hope at St. Mark's is that we'd be a church full of people whose hearts are like the father's. Our hope is that the most exciting part of what we do here — for you — is our brothers and sisters coming home.

For His Kingdom, Dan Bellinger

Dates

July Birthdays

1 — Kathryn Gustin
3 — Kara Robinett
4 — Vicki Marhenke
6 — Adam Daniel, Art
Bartell
7 — Rick Johnston
8 — Micah Carlson
9 — Ellen Bates
13 — Nick Wilhelm, Nicole
Hillabrand
16 — Alison Aldrich

July Birthdays

17 — Phyllis Gobrogge, Richard
Bowerman
18 — Ava Aldrich
21 — Bonnie Johnston, Connie
Myers
22 — Diane Bowerman, Marge
Norris
24 — Alison Konieczki
26 — Breanna Orwig
27 — Barb Knox
28 — Tyler Wilhelm
31 — Kathy Garrison

July Anniversaries

24 — Ron & Vicki Marhenke

Prayer Requests

Grief: Jane Hines (Dave Hines' Mom)

Church Members

Carole Toebe, John Crager, Nila Muzzillo, Sue Burdick, Regina Smith, The Kaduk Family, Ruby Tuttle, Sue Brown, Joyce Springer, and Kathleen Lutz, our missionary in Kenya

Friends of St. Mark's

Brent McCollough (Len McCollough's son) ... Diana Geeting (Sandy Muckenfuss' son-in-law's sister) ... Ron Vancamp (friend of Vicki Bergdall) ... Dean Pheffercorn (husband of Carol Reese's friend) ... Nik McKean (Nicki McKean's son) ... Bill Zabel (friend of John & Jane Foell) ... Roger Easterday (Ruby Tuttle's son) ... Tina Muzzillo (Nila Muzzillo's daughter-in-law) ... Eva Young (neighbor of Barry & Bonnie Trenary) ... Susie Dilley (friend of Cindy Warstler) ... Randy Young (member of our community) ... Gerry Nagel (Konieczki family) ... Steve Dwyer, Bun Mettert, Katlyn Kucharik (friends of Mary Heyse) ... Gladys Girado (Barry Trenary's cousin) ... Betty Deininger (Diann Hines friend's mother) ... Bob Dannenburg (friend of the Foell's) ... Nancy Pearl (Mandy Kintz's mother) ... Leonard Hines (Mary Heyse's brother-in-law) ... Diana Raney (Cindy Warstler's sister) ... Mungumio Vine (Kristen Konieczki's sponsored child) ... Judith Berry (Sue Brown's sister) ... Bob Friend (cousin of Marge Norris & Marilyn Myers) ... Rosie Reade (friend of Marilyn Myers)

Shut-ins and Homebound Members

Alden Swenson, Joanne Ruger, Marilyn Imus, Dolores Souder, Richard Bowerman, Eleanor Thomas, Betty Saunders, Sandy Muckenfuss, Ella McClellan, Maxine Mason, Jean Yoder, Noel Flannigan

**Prayer Requests will be kept on this list for two months, unless otherwise requested. If you would like to add a new request or update us on the status of a person currently on the list, please contact Kathy*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poverty Initiative

St. Mark's has joined a local initiative to address generational poverty in DeKalb County. This will launch with a seminar on July 11, 11 am—2 pm at DeKalb High School. You can learn more about the event from the link to the initiative website on our website. We hope St. Mark's is represented well and can provide scholarships to those in need. St. Mark's is one of the first partners of this initiative, and we are excited to help bring transformation to our community in this way.

We are a local initiative led by representatives in government, faith-based organizations, businesses, and non-government organizations. Initially this began with the Town of Waterloo, New Hope Christian Center, and Learning Link, an education initiative of Community Foundation DeKalb County, but has grown to include many other voices. Our goal is to end poverty...but it's going to take ALL of us, working together, to make that a reality! We are taking a cross-sector, county-wide approach to educate and network leaders about poverty issues in DeKalb County. But, we won't stop there! Through collaboration and innovation, we plan to create new approaches so that each of our organizations can effectively target to end the cycle of poverty.

VBS: St. Mark's is going to the beach!

Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it, July 15-18. As we have done the last few years, VBS will be from Sunday night until Wednesday night. If you would like to help lead a group of students, help with crafts, or help with food. Please speak with Pastor Dan! Look for a sign up sheet for food donations in Kraus Korner!

Coffee/Hospitality & Sunday School

The Worship Assistant Schedule is located in Kraus Korner. We need more volunteers for Coffee/Hospitality and Sunday School.

Willow Creek Leadership Summit

We have some spots for the Willow Creek Leadership Summit in Fort Wayne on August 9 & 10. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor Marcus. Priority is given to staff, council, ministry team leaders and those who have attended in the past.

Kenya Mission Trip Presentations

The Kenya Mission Team has returned! The trip was powerful, fun, smooth, and adventurous. We are thankful for the team of 9 who served those in need: Pastor Marcus Carlson, Jessica Carlson, Alex Kaduk, Peter Jungk, Sue Brown, Diann Hines, Dave Hines, Peggy Badenhop and Scott Lutz. There will be at least 3 opportunities for you to hear more about the mission trip: by talking to one of the team members, in worship on August 5 when Sue Brown gives a testimony of her experience, and on Aug. 12 from 10:45-11:30 a.m. when the team presents downstairs in between worship services. We are hopeful that Kathleen, who will be home in Aug., will be able to join us. Even though she was home for the death of her father, Paul, she is required to return every two years. We will also be sharing future ministry opportunities as we grow our partnership with our missionary and organizations in Kenya. This partnership, the trip and Kathleen's work are a part of our call to bring the whole gospel to the whole world.

Grandparents & Caregivers Support Group

Every 4th Tuesday of the month, from 6:30-7:30pm at the Heimach Center (1800 E 7th St., Auburn) there will be a support group for custodial grandparents and grandparents who often care for their grandchildren. If you would like to come and need childcare, please contact Amanda and Rita at 260-357-3333.

Office Move

We will need some volunteer help to move everything out of the office on July 29 at 12:30 p.m. to get ready for painting and carpet and to move everything back in on Saturday, August 4 at 9 a.m.

Staff Changes

As you may recall, Jon Hunter joined us in 2017 as our Pastoral Intern. After that first year and seeing his skills and gifts, we transitioned him to a new role as Evangelism and Young Adult Minister. We also continued to be a source of internship hours and received a grant to cover a small amount of compensation for him during the entirety of his time here. We developed a plan to call, ordain and send him out to plant a church starting in 2020 with the same level of support for the first year. Jon has informed us that he has decided to take a different direction than the plan that was developed and will be leaving his role at St. Mark's effective December 31, 2018. As a result, we will not carry out that plan, but are committed to the vision of planting a church. Jon has decided to go on his own and plant a church at the start of 2019 as he feels called to this particular timing. We are thankful for Jon and his work here. We believe he is called and gifted and wish him nothing but the best in his new ministry. We will have a time to offer prayer to Jon and Esther as they start this new adventure in worship at the beginning to middle of December. We have developed a transition plan to ensure the important work that Jon does, especially with ALPHA, continues. As a result of the importance of ALPHA and the need for continued staff support for this role over the next couple of years as it, the modern service and Kingdom Communities grow, we have decided to fill this position. We have grant and special funding for the next 2-3 years for this role and ALPHA is one of the three most critical ministries of this church. Our hope is to have someone start for 5 or less hours a week in September to participate in ALPHA and be trained in that important ministry. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Marcus.

Pastor Marcus' Book Available

Pastor Marcus recently published his second book, *The False Gospel of Guilt and Shame*. You can order it in print or kindle on Amazon or you can order one from the church office for \$10.

Israel Trip

The October 2018 Israel trip is being postponed due to date conflicts with the tour guide. The trip will be rescheduled for some time in 2020 or 2021.

Food Pantry Donations

For 2018 we will be accepting any non perishable items. Occasionally, we will ask for donations for special needs or specific organizations we are supporting. Please see the board each month in Kraus Korner for more information.

Sunday Morning Parking

Many of you park at Wells Fargo on Sunday morning. Recently, ownership of that property changed hands as Wells Fargo prepares to merge into their location on 7th Street. Pastor Marcus met with the new owners and they have granted continued permission for people to park at Wells Fargo on Sunday mornings for church. Additionally, they have extended permission to park in the lot on the corner of 7th and VanBuren next to Wells Fargo as well as the Beacon Lot. This applies to Sunday morning only. Please feel free to utilize these spaces, but please be respectful of these properties as well. We always encourage members who are physically able to consider parking outside our main two lots on Sunday to leave them open for new people, visitors, and those who have a physical need to park closer.

Celebrate Recovery

St. Mark's has partnered with Celebrate Recovery--a place for people walking through hurts, hang-ups, and habits--at the Cupbearer Cafe. There is a community meal at 5:30 p.m. every Thursday with the Celebrate Recovery large group meeting at 6:30 p.m. If you would like more information about CR or are interested in attending, please see a pastor.

Sunday Sermon Series

This summer we will journey through the book of Romans. If you have to miss a Sunday, you can always watch or listen online to the sermon or request a DVD of the service from the church office.

Upcoming Sunday Morning Sermon Series

We encourage you to read the passage for each week the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday before worship and the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday after worship as a way to further prepare for, reflect on, and listen to God as we look to the Bible together.

Romans

7/1 - Chapter 7 [Romans 7:14-25]

7/8 - Chapter 8 [Romans 8:28-38]

7/15 - Chapter 9 [Romans 9:1-5]

7/22 - Chapter 10 [Romans 10:5-15]

7/29 - Chapter 11 [Romans 11:25-32]

8/5 - Chapter 12 [Romans 12:1-8]

Carlson Summer of Missions

Please be praying for Pastor Marcus and Jessica Carlson as they head to India in July to train 150 current and future pastors from all over India and Bangladesh!

Weekly Bible Studies

Pastor's Bible Study

Pastor's Bible Study continues every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. Bring your Bible and join us!

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

The Adult Bible study group meets twice a month after the 9:30 worship service/coffee time at 11:00 - 12:00 in the Council Room, located downstairs off of Schuette Hall.

We have been studying, "In the Lutheran Household", A Bible study on the Lutheran Understanding of Marriage and Family. Included in this study are excerpts from Luther's personal writings to family and friends as they faced good and bad that come from everyday living.

The last Bible Study for the summer will be July 8th. It will start back up in September.

2018 Strategic Plan

We are currently working on the 2018 strategic plan. Most completed items have been behind the scenes items. This summer and fall, you will begin to see more items completed including the painting and re-carpeting of the offices, the sealing and repainting of the parking lot, stealth ministry teams and more. If you have questions, see one of the Pastors or a council member.

Back By Popular Demand!

Creating Greeting Cards

Set the date for September 15th. On that date we will be having our Greeting Card Making Event again! We will be making fall, Thanksgiving and Christmas cards in September. There will be a \$5.00 charge to help with cost of supplies. There will be a limit of 25 spots. Please reserve your spot now by contacting Marge, Marilyn, Vicki, or Janice or sign up in August when we post a sign up sheet on bulletin board. Hope to see you in September!

Opportunities to Serve

Prayer Team:

We are looking for additional members to join our prayer team. Prayer team members are scheduled to staff our prayer stations during communion. Training is provided. Please let Pastor Marcus or the church office know if you are interested.

Nursery:

We are looking for individuals to serve for one of the Sunday morning services once a month. Please contact Pastor Dan if interested.

Tech Team:

We are hoping to add to our tech team, those who run the slides and sound for Sunday morning services. Training provided! It would mean serving for at least one of the services once a month. Please contact any Pastoral Team member if interested.

Preschool Volunteers:

As our preschool grows we are looking for some preschool volunteers to spend time with our children in the classroom. Ideally, volunteers would come for 2 hours one day a week each week in the 9:30-3:30 time frame. Retirees, working adults, parents, grandparents are all welcome. Please contact Linda or the church office if you are willing to help.

Lutheran Summer Camping

If you are interested your students or children attending one of our Lutheran Camps, there is information in Kraus Korner. Please remember that our church will cover half of the registration. If you are interested, please talk with Dan.

LCMC National Gathering

Pastor Marcus, Pastor Dan and Diann Hines attended the LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ) National Gathering in October. It was a wonderful and meaningful event for all. This year's gathering, October 7-11, 2018 will be in Des Moines and we will be using some grant funds to help others attend this gathering as we will be able to drive out for the event. All expenses other than some meals will be covered by the grant. If you have questions or interest, please see Pastor Marcus or Pastor Dan.

New Quarterly Prayer Initiative

As we continue to grow in our prayer life as individuals and as a church, we will be emphasizing quarterly prayer days throughout the year. For each of these 4 days during the year, congregation members will be encouraged to take a day with an extra focus on prayer. Ideas, prompts and themes will be shared through the newsletter, bulletin and the all church email. Our quarterly days of prayer for 2018 will be September 10 and December 3.

Funding Our Future

The Funding Our Future initiative has completed, however we have made this fund permanent. Donations above and beyond general giving can be given, and this fund is used for new ministry initiatives and implementation of our strategic plan for things not covered in the budget. Much like the building fund that is used for special building expenses not covered in the budget, Funding Our Future is used for special ministry expenses not covered in our budget.

Personal Ministry

A core belief of our Lutheran Theology is the Priesthood of all Believers, that we are all ministers. That means regardless of your age, your Bible knowledge, your gifts and abilities you are a ministry. It means that you are all ministers. Over the last 5 years one of our hopes has been to help you find your personal ministry at St. Mark's and outside St. Mark's. The third and final piece of that puzzle is to help you find the people God is calling you to

minister to. It may be specific people, it may be a type of person or a people group. Often, it is simply the names in your contacts, in your circle of influence that do not have a faith, have a faith that has gone dry, do not have a church or do not know Jesus. Who are the people that God is calling you to minister to?

Alpha News

Who are you thinking about inviting and bringing to Alpha? Remember only 1 in 4 people come to Alpha as a result personal invitation. That means we need everyone in our church inviting! First start by making a list of everyone you know who doesn't have a church home or is not a Christian yet. Think through your friends, family, work colleagues, etc. People in your social network. Then highlight the people who like you, listen to you, and people who go out of their way to help you! These are called "people of peace." Ask yourself, "Are these people open to God to a certain extent?" These are the people most likely to come to Alpha.

Second, take the highlighted names of the "people of peace" and make a new condensed list. Put the list in front of the bathroom mirror and pray for them while you brush your teeth every day! God will start to prepare their hearts! After a few weeks pick up an Alpha invitation from church and write a personal message on the back inviting them to come to Alpha. Explain that Alpha is a conversation with free food to explore the meaning of life at the YMCA. Show them the dates. Ask them just to try the first one on September 10th. Lastly, bring them to Alpha on September 10th! If they like it, they can join the course. However, if Alpha is not right for them, simply thank them for trying it and let them go. I think you will be surprised on how many people will be transformed by God by the end of the course!

Lawn Mowing

The schedule for the lawn mowing season is up in Kraus Korner. Please sign-up for a time that works for you.

Save the Date

July 11 - Poverty Seminar
July 15-18 - Vacation Bible School
August 9 & 10 - Willow Creek Leadership Summit
August 12 - Kenya Mission Trip Presentation
10:45-11:30 a.m.
August 19 - Church Picnic
September 8 - Church Retreat (half day)
September 10-November 19 - ALPHA

Kingdom Communities

A Kingdom community is a group of people who grow to be deep spiritual friends. They come together in a common mission to bring good and love of Jesus to their neighborhood around them. This is where deep discipleship happens and where life to the full thrives. We are launching our first Kingdom community this fall. Would you like to know more or to get involved? For questions about Kingdom communities and Alpha email jon@stmarksauburn.org

Thank You

Dear Members of St. Mark's,
Thanks so much for all of your prayers and visits to Dad while he was living his remaining days on earth and for our family at the time of his passing. We are grateful for your care and compassion, and especially the pastors, choir, and organist part in the memorial service. We give all glory and honor to God.
The Family of Paul Lutz

Dear Members of St. Mark's,
Thank you for the donation of cereal, miscellaneous items, and personal items. Your continuous support is greatly appreciated as we serve the residents of DeKalb county.
Shirley Johnson, Program Coordinator RSVP

New Members

We would like to welcome two new members to St. Mark's. Kathryn Gustin & Carole Toebe

LCMC Update: A New Future

[Article written by Mark Vander Tuig, Service Coordinator]

Our 18th Annual Gathering and Convention will be held again in Des Moines, Iowa, on October 7-10 at the Iowa Events Center! Since we are in our 18th year, the Board of Trustees has chosen the theme for our gathering of "Growing Up", based on Ephesians 4:11-16. Dr. Kent Hunter, "The Church Doctor", will be our keynote speaker for the gathering. Dr. Hunter has worked in congregational assessment and consultation for over 30 years. His insights have brought hope and effectiveness to congregations across the U.S. and beyond. It is time for our churches to "grow up" and become mature.

The annual gathering and convention of LCMC is always open to everyone—members, delegates and pastors alike. Each gathering includes times for worship, prayer with and for each other, Bible study and keynote presentations. We offer breakout sessions we hope are relevant for the issues facing our churches. You can find all the details on our website at www.LCMC.net.

Each year we know that there are first time visitors to the gathering. LCMC is a network—an association, not a denomination—so giving time for people to talk is central to our gathering.

We also invite anywhere from 60-90 vendors (depending on the size of the convention center) to show us what they have to offer congregations. It is important for people to make direct relationships with ministries, missionary agencies, publishing houses and more to strengthen their mission and ministry. Many have described our gatherings as a family reunion. Fundamentally, LCMC is not about LCMC, it is about the work of ministry, carried out by God's people in communities all across the U.S., and even around the world. New congregations are being planted, established congregations are being strengthened, and all of God's people are being called.

Please feel free to join with us in Des Moines, Iowa, October 7-10 for the 18th Annual Gathering and Convention!
LCMC is growing up!

St. Mark's Financial Update

Due to timing of bank statements, reconciliation and council meeting schedules, we will always be presenting information from the end of the month occurring two months before the date of the newsletter.

Operating Fund Snapshot

General Fund/Budget/Operating Fund

The Operating Fund is our yearly budget. This is also called the general fund. This is what Pastor Dan likes to describe as the 'regular' income and expenses of the church. The Operating Fund covers those things that occur on a regular basis such as compensation for Pastor Marcus, Pastor Dan, Kathy and Laura and things such as utilities, insurance and other regular expenses for our staff, building and ministries. This is different from the special (restricted/designated accounts) that cover new initiatives and one-time or special expenses.

Through May 31, 2018 Operating Fund Reserve Remaining: \$15,722.56

	Income	Expense	Net
Budget	\$107,629.18	\$111,003.75	-\$1,537.00
Actual	\$112,114.58	\$112,114.58	\$0
Difference	\$4,485.40	\$1,110.83	_____

July Finance Note

May was our weakest month of giving so far. While this is not unusual, it is something to be aware of. June has also started off low. That said, we are mostly on track with budget items to date. We do not want to get behind and though our church growth continues to come along slowly, God continues to provide. Our goal is to continue to grow into Pastor Dan's position with our operating fund from current and new members. If you are currently behind on your pledged or planned giving, we would greatly appreciate any efforts to catch up.

Finance Education for July

St. Mark's utilizes various funds to help categories, track and spend the funds we receive. This is due to a variety of factors, primarily focused on meeting the needs of the church and honoring designed giving from those who give to St. Mark's. Throughout the year, we want to educate you about these various funds in our newsletter.

Preschool: The preschool is tracked separately in our accounting system and as of this summer will have its own bank accounts and accounting system under the umbrella of St. Mark's. The preschool is meant to be a self-sustaining ministry of St. Mark's. To date, not a penny of funds from our Operating Fund have been spent on the preschool. The preschool has been funded primarily by grants and tuition income. The preschool will only exist if it continues to be self-sustaining. We have shared the cost of some of the building improvements for the preschool as required by grants using special funds, however these are things that also benefit the church. The preschool has all but 2 spots filled for next year and is growing at a rate that expansion is being considered. The preschool currently pays St. Mark's for the increased costs in insurance and custodial and gives some money towards utilities. As it grows, the amount the preschool gives to the Operating Fund of St. Mark's will increase.

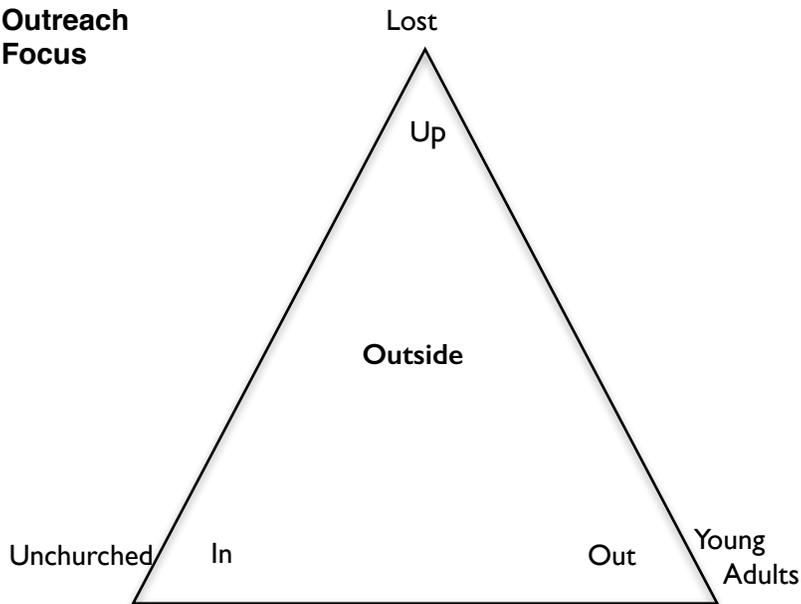
Grants: Since Pastor Marcus arrived, we have received over \$365,000 in grants that have allowed us to do significant things such as bring a second pastor on board, launch various outreach ministries, start a preschool, engage in learning as we move forward and much more. Everything new that we have done in the last five years has come from Grants and special funds except Part of Pastor Dan's compensation. We have worked diligently to improve current ministries, add new ministries and improve our building. We thank God for this provision!

St. Mark's Culture & DNA

Our DNA:

While we are all unique and have our own unique DNA, we also as a church have a shared and unique DNA. We utilize the shape of a triangle to explain much of our ministry, vision and structure. This is rooted in the first triangle that represents the three dimensions or focuses of Jesus' life and ministry. Jesus lived his intentional life on earth through three relationships: up, in and out.

Outreach Focus



Outreach Focus: The Triangle helps us to understand the focus of the ministry of our church based on how Jesus lived his life, up-in-out with the Father, the disciples and the world. As a church, we have recognized our need to focus on outreach. For many years, like most other churches in our country, we have not done a good job at reaching out to those outside of the church, instead expecting people to come to us as they had in the past. Those days are over. As a church we have identified three areas of focus for our outreach consistent with the life of Jesus and where we are weak as a church. The first is reaching in to those *in* our community who do not have a church home. The second is to reach *up* to those who are lost and do not know Jesus. Finally, we reach *out* to young adults who we have failed to reach and serve.

Our Vocabulary:

Most churches (along with other organizations) do not realize that the language and the vocabulary of the organization have great significance to the organization. One of the cornerstones of any culture is language or vocabulary. This month our vocabulary words are *culture and culture question*.

Person of Peace: the person or people God puts in our life or path who welcomes you and responds to you with openness to Jesus and the good news of the Gospel.

Prayer of the Month:

Come Holy Spirit, come
Come Holy Spirit, come
Come Holy Spirit, come
Amen

Culture Question of the Month:

What do you see God doing right now? What do you see God doing in your life? In our Church? In our Community? In the World?



Montessori Moment

Summer vacation has begun and we are busy getting ready for the new school year which begins in August. We are excited to announce that Ms. Jill started her Montessori training this month. She is taking an on-line course through CGMS and will receive a full Montessori Certificate in 18 months. Please keep her in your prayers as she begins this new journey. Our enrollment for August continues to grow and over the next few weeks we will be working to create a beautiful inviting environment for our students. If you would like to learn more about our program, we encourage you to check our Facebook page. We post articles and blogs that explain some of the Montessori Philosophy. Sharing these posts will also help spread the word to others in the community that might not know about our program. Thank you again for all the prayers and support. We are looking forward to a great school year!

Events

There are a couple spots left for the 2018-2019 school year. If you know of anyone looking for a Montessori school please encourage them to schedule a tour. You can do this by emailing Linda at linda@stmarksauburn.org

Help Needed

We are currently looking for a part-time special needs assistant for the new school year that begins in August. The position is for about 20 hours per week. If you know of anyone that might be interested please have them send their resume to linda@stmarksauburn.org

Why do we???...

This is a part of a series of articles we will publish in our newsletter every other month or so. It is an opportunity to look at the 'why' of what we do.

Why do we??...

See Pastors and Their Families as Community Property

One of the most difficult adjustments in being a pastor is adjusting to the mindset that most congregations and their members have regarding their pastors and their families. In most settings and in the minds of many members of churches in the United States, pastors and their families are seen as 'community property'. This means that church attendees assume that they in part 'own' pastors and their families and have a special right to dictate the appearance, personal life, personality, interests and time of their pastors. While the leadership of churches should hold pastors to a moral standard, this is something entirely different.

Over the years I have seen, heard and experienced this mindset. It is wrong, often painful and unhealthy. In many cases, we say things to pastors and their families that we would never say to someone else: strangers, friends or even spouses. We comment on and critique every aspect of the lives of our pastors and their families: their time, appearance, personality, interests and more. Things are said by those in churches that if the roles were reversed and pastors were to say to congregation members would cause tremendous angst and hurt, yet we don't flinch in saying it to our Pastors. So why do individuals and congregations take this approach?

The Personal Servant Mindset. In many cases, congregations and parishioners assume that the pastors and their families exist to be their personal servant. This often means the neglecting of family, marriage and rest in order to meet every diverse need, opinion and expectation in the church. It is the 'spiritual butler' approach, but even if it were right or healthy, it's impossible to achieve.

The Donation Mindset. The consumer mindset that drives our American culture has also infiltrated our church as a heresy disguised as an improvement to the ministry of the church. Congregations and parishioners across the country assume that since they give to the church that they have a right to weigh in on every aspect of the life of their pastors and their pastors' families. Interestingly enough, we do not do this in any other area in our culture, and it is neither fair, biblical or healthy. It distorts the purpose of the tithe and joyful giving. There is and must be a difference between the church and McDonalds.

The "Because we Care" Excuse. More than once I have heard someone say something inappropriate or nasty to me and when challenged, say to me, 'I only say it because I care.' If we were really honest with ourselves, we would admit that while we care, this statement is not accurate. There are many people in our lives we care about and in few instances would we say things to them that we say to pastors and their families.

As one article notes...

"The fishbowl pressures on pastoral spouses and children are enormous and they feel it keenly. Most ministry family members suffer in isolation, loneliness and silence. Few professions scrutinize and criticize their leaders and leader families like the Church does its pastors. These realities alone complicate the marriages and family life of pastors."

Pastors and their families are not community property. Don't be surprised if the pastoral team or their families give you a gentle as possible reminder of this reality as needed. We are thankful for the mutual love we share and look forward to growing in this area together.

Ever wonder what happens when St. Mark's receives an estate gift as a part of someone's will and final wishes? Below is the policy that guides our approach when we receive an estate gift. Last month we shared information about our memorial policy. If you have any questions feel free to contact us.

Estate Gift Policy

Purpose: From time to time, St. Mark's Lutheran Church is a benefactor of an estate. This policy is meant to guide how gifts from estates are handled.

Policy & Procedures:

Receipt & Tracking

- Funds received by St. Mark's as estate gifts are considered designated funds and are treated differently than other gifts given to St. Mark's.
- Like all gifts, the amount of the gift and the name of the giver are not shared with the general congregation unless specifically requested by the giver.
- When an estate gift is received, it will be deposited into the Funding Our Future account in accordance with church deposit and accounting procedures. This fund is designated and is not part of the general church-operating budget. The fund carries over from year to year.
- The Council will then decide how the gift is to be divided up, put into other accounts at St. Mark's and used based on the guidelines below.

Use of Estate Gifts

- If the gift comes with conditions, required or suggested uses, those must be honored first and foremost. Designations made with the estate gift as a part of the estate are given first priority.
- For any undesignated gifts or amounts, the council will decide how to best use the funds and disperse the funds based on the following:
 - If the undesignated portion of the gift exceeds \$100,000, a minimum of 10% of the gift must go in the Endowment Fund, if in existence.
 - If the undesignated portion of the gift exceeds \$100,000, a minimum of 10% of the gift must go in the Funding Our Future Reserve Fund, if in existence.
 - The gift should be used primarily for one time expenses, seed money and other items not covered in the budget.
 - The gift should be used to help propel the church and its mission forward.
 - Building projects should receive the lowest priority when designating the gift, unless the building project is urgent.
- Estate gifts will show up on the church financial statements as do all assets. While the name of the giver and the amount of the gift will not be disclosed, the congregation will see the gift listed as a part of its assets in the appropriate accounts.

Approved December 2016

Worship Assistant Schedule July 1, 2018 to August 5, 2018

	July 1	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29	August 5
Preaching	Pastor Marcus	Brian Moeller	Pastor Dan	Jon Hunter	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Marcus
Assisting Minister (T)	Jane F.	Diann H.	John F.	Dave H.	Pastor Dan	Mason R.
Children Time (T)	Pastor Dan	Pastor Marcus	Pastor Dan	Jon H.	Pastor Marcus	Jessica C.
Acolyte (T)	Alex L.	Ava A.	Camden K.	Alex L.	Abby C.	Camden K.
Lector (T)	Suzanne L.	Alison A.	Jane F.	Mary H.	Lora K.	Bill H.
Communion Asst. (T)	Peggy B. & Vicki B.	Glenn M. & Janice T.	Barry Tren. & Marge	Diann H. & Connie M.	John & Jane F.	Peggy B. & Pastor Dan
Ushers (T)	Jerry S., Rex B., Art B., Stan B.	Jerry S., Rex B., Russ H., Len M.	Jerry S., Rex B., Kathy G., Janice T.	Jerry S., Rex B., Dave & Jayne M.	Jerry S., Tina M., Tony K., Glenn M.	Jerry S., Art B., Stan B., Tony K.
Greeters (T)	Stan & Judy B.	Bill & Sarah H.	Gary H. & Vicki M.	Nila M. & Kathy L.	Russ & Barb H.	Don & Connie M.
Nursery (T)	Alison A. & Jessica C.	Linda Wolf & Kaitlyn	Carol R.		Jessica C. & Judy B.	Cindy W.
Sunday School (T)	N/A					
Tech (T)	Barry & Connie	Justin A. & Micah C.	Barry & Connie M.	Barry & Micah	Connie M. & Micah C.	Jeff & Jarrett R.
Prayer Team (T)	P. Dan & Jon H.	Mary H. & Sue B.	Brian M. & Jayne M.	P. Dan & Sue B.	Jayne M. & Brian M.	Cindy R. & Jayne M.
Altar	Kathy G.					
Coffee/Hospitality	N/A					
Emcee (M)	Pastor Dan	Nicki McKean	Pastor Dan	Pastor Dan	Pastor Dan	Jon H.
Communion (M)	Pastor Dan	Marilyn M.	Pastor Dan	Jeff R.	Pastor Dan	Marge N.
Prayer Team (M)	Jessica C.	Jayne M.	Mary H.	Cindy R.	Mary H.	Pastor Dan
Greeters/Usher (M)	Jessica C.	Tina M.	Linda Wolff	Jeff & Cindy R.	Mary H.	Tina M.
Nursery (M)	Linda Wolf	Carol R.	Heidi M.	Ashlyn R.	Jessica C.	Heidi M.
Tech (M)	Marge N. & Micah C.	Barry T.	Jeff R.	Mason & Jarrett R.	Marge N.	Barry T.
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

JULY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:30 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM 11:30 Gathering (Modern Worship) 1:00 PM Kenya Mission Team Meeting</p>	<p>2 Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p>3 5:00 PM Modern Service Rehearsal</p>	<p>4 Church Office Closed Independence Day</p>	<p>5 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>6 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:30 AM Coffee Hour 11:00 AM Adult Bible Study 11:30 AM 11:30 Gathering (Modern Worship)</p>	<p>9 Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p>10 5:00 PM Modern Service Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 8:30 AM Open Prayer & Communion 9:00 AM Prayer Gathering 11:00 AM Poverty Initiative</p>	<p>12 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>13 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:30 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM 11:30 Gathering (Modern Worship) 6:00 PM Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>16 Pastor Dan's Day Off 6:00 PM Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>17 5:00 PM Modern Service Rehearsal 6:00 PM Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>18 8:30 AM Open Prayer & Communion 9:00 AM Prayer Gathering 12:00 PM Genealogy Group 12:00 PM Senior's Luncheon 6:00 PM Vacation Bible School</p>	<p>19 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>20 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:30 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM 11:30 Gathering (Modern Worship)</p>	<p>23 Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p>24 5:00 PM Modern Service Rehearsal</p>	<p>25 8:30 AM Open Prayer & Communion 9:00 AM Prayer Gathering</p>	<p>26 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery</p>	<p>27 Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9:30 AM Worship Service with Communion 10:30 AM Coffee Hour 11:30 AM 11:30 Gathering (Modern Worship) 12:30 PM Move Office</p>	<p>30 Paint Office Pastor Dan's Day Off</p>	<p>31 Paint Office 5:00 PM Modern Service Rehearsal</p>	<p>1 Carpet Office 8:30 AM Open Prayer & Communion 9:00 AM Prayer Gathering 9:30 AM Pastors & Kathy Meeting 12:00 PM Genealogy Group</p>	<p>2 Carpet Office Parent Orientation (Parents Only) 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study 5:30 PM Celebrate Recovery 6:00 PM Council Meeting & Dinner</p>	<p>3 Carpet Office Pastor Marcus' Day Off</p>	<p>4 9:00 AM Move Office</p>

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

211 West Ninth Street

Auburn, IN 46706

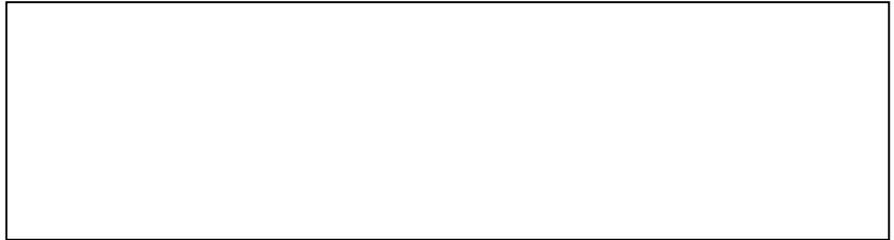
Web Page: www.stmarksauburn.org

Pastor Marcus: pastormarcus@stmarksauburn.org

Pastor Dan: pastordan@stmarksauburn.org

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Return Service Requested



St. Mark's

— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

**Building Relationships
Transforming Lives**

St. Mark's Messenger is published monthly by St. Mark's Lutheran Church

The Rev. Dr. Marcus J. Carlson Senior Pastor

Rev. Dan Bellinger Family & Outreach Pastor

Jon Hunter Young Adult & Evangelism Minister

Laura Deckard Director of Music

Kathy Fribley Church Secretary

Linda Vandemark Preschool Director

Our Mission: To bring about transformation in individuals, families, our community, and the world through Jesus Christ